MC0100

HOSPITAL BUILDING NOTE

MORTUARY & POST-MORTEM ROOM

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Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room

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Amendments, and additions to the text are indicated by a vertical line in the margin.

Building Notes recommend the standards of accommodation and services for hospital departments which the Ministry of Health considers it reasonable to provide. Each Building Note contains a Cost Note from which may be derived a Departmental Cost Allowance appropriate to the department. Hospital Boards are at liberty to depart from the design recommendations given in Building Notes provided that they are satisfied that the standards of accommodation and services they adopt are adequate. The Departmental Cost Allowance, however, is to be regarded as the maximum sum of money available for the department and it should not be exceeded. Hospital Boards are encouraged to produce designs for the provision of appropriate accommodation and services at a cost less than the Departmental Cost Allowance.

An addendum to Appendix E of Hospital Building Note No. 2, *The Cost of Hospital Buildings,* which sets out cost recommendations for the Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room is supplied with this Building Note.

I. Scope

1. This Building Note gives guidance on the design of mortuaries with post-mortem facilities for district general hospitals.

2. The accommodation described in the Note is recommended for district general hospitals of between 300 and 800 beds. The post-mortem facilities might also serve smaller hospitals within the group.

II. General considerations

3. Whenever it is proposed to build or rebuild a hospital mortuary, consideration should be given to the possibility of providing for the needs of the local authority as well as for the hospital on a joint use basis. The main advantages of such arrangements are:

(a) Post-mortem examinations ordered by the Coroner would be done in the hospital, including those on patients who died in the hospital; this would facilitate hospital medical staff with an interest in the case being present at the examination.

(*b*) Saving and public funds as a whole; with a proper sharing of capital costs, taking into account the expected amount of use on behalf of the local authority and the hospital respectively, and the running costs on the basis of actual use, the saving can accrue both the local authority and to the Board. A joint mortuary can also save pathologists' time.

4. The additional traffic by way of bodies being taken to and from the mortuary need not be a disadvantage if the recommendations in paragraphs 13 and 17 of this Building Note are carefully observed. If, however, the number of local authority cases to be coped with is very large, as in a city or very large town, arrangements for joint facilities may not be feasible.

5. Where the provision of a joint mortuary would be acceptable from the hospital point of view, Boards should, therefore, consult the local authority; it is understood that many local authorities may wish to replace their existing mortuary accommodation as opportunity arises.

6. A mortuary is required so that (*a*) bodies may be kept until burial can be arranged; (*b*) the pathologist may investigate the causes of death and make other scientific investigations; and (*c*) bodies may be viewed or identified by relatives and friends.

7. Bodies usually remain in the mortuary for one or more days. Sometimes the period is longer if further investigations have to be carried out by the pathologist, or if the next-of-kin are difficult to trace.

8. Bodies are kept in the body store and examined in the post-mortem room; specimens are sent in containers to the pathology department for examination.

9. Autopsies are often required and several may be performed in one day. Two or more tables in the post-mortem room may enable the pathologist to carry out several at one attendance.

10. A separate section of the mortuary will be needed in all district general hospitals for the storage and viewing of bodies of persons who have died from an infectious disease (see Isolation Section): post-mortem and other facilities will be common.

Location

11. The mortuary should be near the pathology department and easily accessible from the wards, accident and emergency department, and operating theatres. The post-mortem room should be either adjacent to the morbid anatomy section of the pathology department or have direct vertical or horizontal communication with it.

12. Convenient and separate access should be arranged for the medical staff, visiting relatives, and the undertakers.

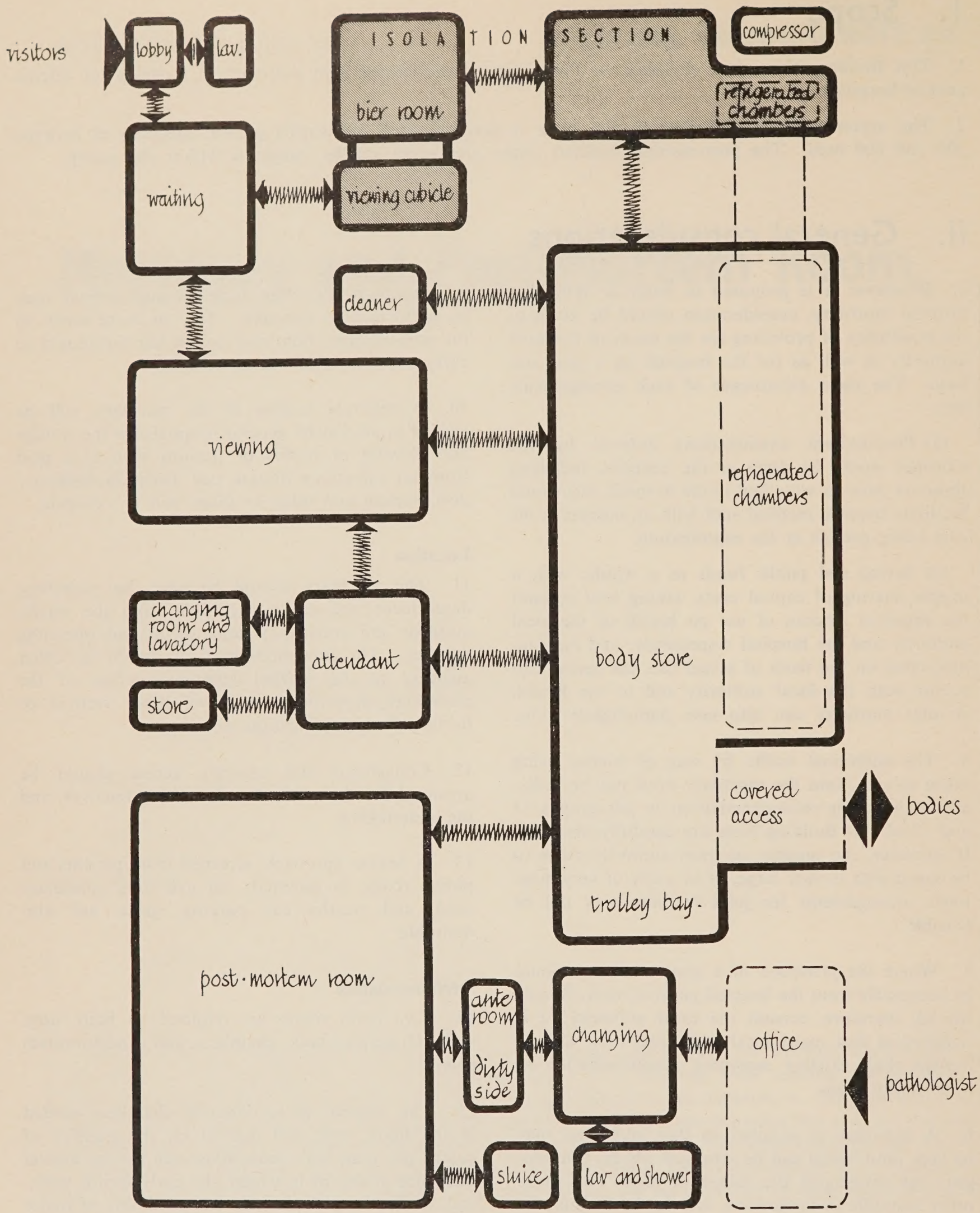
13. A hearse approach, screened from patients and public roads, is essential: an exit to a subsidiary road, and nearby car parking space, are also desirable.

Accommodation

14. Two main rooms are required: a body store with refrigerated body chambers, and a post-mortem room.

15. The number of refrigerated chambers needed in the body store will depend on the number of deaths per year, with some allowance for the greater incidence of deaths in winter and early spring, week-end accidents, epidemics and the possibility of major accidents.

16. It has been found that this requirement is closely related to the bed complement of the hospital and that, as a general rule, four mortuary places for each hundred beds is satisfactory excluding any provision in the isolation section. Occasionally the number of bodies may be in excess of this but rather than provide too many body chambers it would be preferable to make temporary use of the unrefrigerated area of the body store and the post-



mortem room. The possible need to extend the refrigerated space at a later date should, however, be taken into account.

17. The lay-out should ensure the correct internal arrangement of rooms and the isolation of the several entrances necessary for the different users. This is shown diagrammatically in Figure 1. It is most undesirable for bodies to be taken in and out of the building within sight of the visitors' entrance: and it should be made impossible for visitors to enter any other part of the mortuary by mistake.

18. The attendant's room should be readily accessible from the visitors' waiting-room, the body store, and the post-mortem room.

19. The pathologist's washing and gowning facilities and the storage space for clean gowns, aprons, boots, gloves, etc., should all be outside the post-mortem room. A clean linen store for shrouds and towels, etc., will be required near the body store and viewing room.

20. Instruments, dissecting surfaces and protective clothing will require frequent cleaning and disinfecting. A small instrument steriliser should be available.

Construction and finishings

21. The floors, walls and ceilings should have hard, durable, and easily cleaned surfaces. Junctions between walls and floors should be suitably coved.

22. Natural day lighting by windows should be provided wherever possible, and it is preferable for windows to the principal rooms to be on the north side. Windows generally should have opaque glass and the opening lights should be fitted with external fly-proof screens. Window-sills should, except in some of the ancillary rooms, be not less than 5 ft. 0 in. above outside ground level.

23. Sliding or double doors of adequate width should be provided between the principal rooms to ensure the easy passage of the elevating and other trolleys.

24. If grilles are provided at floor or ceiling levels for cross ventilation they should exclude flies and vermin and provide for the cleaning of ducts and vents. Holes through walls for pipes should also be vermin-proof.

25. Floors which have to be hosed down should be laid with falls and the channels should discharge into sealed top back inlet gullies outside the building: if open floor channels cannot be avoided they should have rust-proof, easily cleaned metal grids.

26. Roof lights have some disadvantages since it is difficult to ensure the maintenance of an even temperature and the penetration of direct sunshine is undesirable.

27. With adequate ventilation a general internal height of 9 ft. 0 in. is sufficient if roof lights are adopted; otherwise the height of the post-mortem room and perhaps the body store, might be 10 ft. 0 in. The height of most ancillary rooms need not exceed 8 ft. 0 in.

III. List of rooms

A. Basic accommodation

28. This should be provided in all cases and should consist of the following:

(*a*) *Covered access*
(*b*) *Body store*
(*c*) *Trolley bay*
(*d*) *Compressor and switch room*
(*e*) *Pathologist's changing room*
(*f*) *Ante-room*
(*g*) *Pathologist's lavatory*
(*h*) *Attendant's room*
(*i*) *Attendant's changing room and lavatory*
(*j*) *Post-mortem room*
(*k*) *Sluice room*
(*l*) *Viewing room*
(*m*) *Visitors' entrance*
(*n*) *Visitors' waiting-room*
(*o*) *Isolation section*
  (i) Body store
  (ii) Bier room
  (iii) Viewing cubicle
(*p*) *Stores*
  (i) Clean stock
  (ii) Instruments and equipment
  (iii) Linen
(*q*) *Cleaners' room*
(*r*) *Circulation space necessary for the above accommodation.*

Functional unit

29. The functional unit selected for the basic accommodation in this Note and the related Cost Note (Appendix E to Building Note No. 2) is the capacity of the body store, calculated from bed numbers.

B. Additional accommodation

30. Additional accommodation may sometimes be required, e.g.:

(*a*) *Pathologist's office*
(*b*) *Additional body storage*
(*c*) *Additional post-mortem tables*
(*d*) *Specimen room*
(*e*) *Undertakers' vestibule*
(*f*) *Relatives' viewing cubicle*
(*g*) *Medical observation room*

IV. Description of rooms

A. Basic accommodation

31. The Appendix gives a table of recommended minimum areas for the rooms in the basic accommodation.

(*a*) *Covered access*

32. A covered area for vehicles should be provided at the entrance to the body store as a protection in wet weather and as a screen from adjoining areas.

(*b*) *Body store*

33. The number of bodies to be provided for will be determined by the factors outlined in paragraph 13.

34. Refrigerated body storage is essential. The most practical arrangement is to provide chambers averaging about 6 ft. 0 in. wide, 8 ft. 9 in. deep and 6 ft. 0 in. high (internal dimensions) in which six bodies may be stored in two sets of three tiers, the loose trays being placed in position on fixed tubular or other type of framing by a mechanically operated elevating trolley. Cabinet doors should open through 180° to allow the attendant to approach either side of the trolley.

35. Space is needed in front of the cold chambers for the withdrawal of trays and for working space for the undertakers' assistants. Depending on the layout, a depth of 18 ft. 0 in. for the body store is usually satisfactory.

36. A northern or cool aspect is desirable. Good natural ventilation by windows at high level is essential. Impermeable and easily washable floor and wall surfaces should be provided; a hose point for washing down should be available.

(*c*) *Trolley bay*

37. A bay is required for the two mortuary trolleys (the elevating trolley and the concealed type collecting trolley).

(*d*) *Compressor and switch room*

38. A room is required, immediately adjacent to the body store, for the refrigerating plant. The main electrical intake and switch board may be sited here. Access for maintenance should be arranged externally so that it is unnecessary to enter the building.

(*e*) *Pathologist's changing room*

39. This is required for the pathologist and, occasionally, clinical staff to change before entering the post-mortem room. There should be separate lockers for personal clothes and for post-mortem room gowns, aprons and boots. Further changing space or a second changing room will be needed in the larger hospitals or in hospitals where there are both male and female pathologists.

(*f*) *Ante-room*

40. A small lobby is needed for discarding soiled garments and boots before the pathologist returns to the changing room.

(*g*) *Pathologist's lavatory*

41. One w.c., one lavatory basin and a shower cubicle are needed.

42. A second lavatory may be required (see (*e*) above).

(*h*) *Attendant's room*

43. There will usually be only one attendant who will attend on staff bringing visitors to the mortuary, arrange the viewing room and assist in the post-mortem room.

44. A writing top will be required for records of admissions and removals of bodies, viewing periods, etc. A small stationery store will be needed.

(*i*) *Attendant's changing room and lavatory*

45. A w.c. and wash basin will be necessary, together with a shower cubicle and a clothes cupboard.

(*j*) *Post-mortem room*

46. This room must immediately adjoin the body store. It must be kept scrupulously clean to protect the staff from bacterial contamination. The floor, walls and post-mortem tables will require frequent hosing down. Good natural lighting is essential. All facilities should be sited in relation to the post-mortem tables.

47. Generally the room should be arranged so that the pathologist may work at two or more tables. Two tables will usually be required for 400 beds or, alternatively, for every 450 deaths per year, within the hospital or group of hospitals served by the mortuary. In smaller hospitals one table will normally be enough but the area recommended is large enough for the installation of a second if it proves necessary.

48. Generally the tables are of porcelain or fireclay, but stainless steel tables do not chip and are easy to clean. Tables are available with or without rinsing sinks incorporated at the foot: water supply and drainage will be needed at each table. Rotating tables may sometimes be required.

49. A loose hardwood dissecting board or platform will normally be wanted on each table. A main dissection worktop, usually along the window wall, will be needed for selective dissecting and the cleansing and weighing of organs. The surface of the

worktop should be of fireclay, stainless steel, terrazzo, or other impermeable material.

50. Two large sinks, each with hot and cold water, should be adjacent to the worktop—one for clean, and one for dirty work. A flushing sluice and a wash basin with elbow action controls are generally needed. A mirror should be provided above the wash basin.

51. A recess, shelf or wall cupboard should be provided for formalin, saline and other solutions, and a writing top or wallboard for rough notes. A wall-mounted x-ray viewing box may also be needed.

52. Impermeable and easily washable floor and wall surfaces are required, and a hose point should be available. Surface pipes and conduits should be avoided.

(*k*) *Sluice room*

53. This should open directly off the post-portem room. A Belfast sink, connected to the soil drain, and a fireclay slab will be required for the washing of bowls and instruments and their cleansing in disinfectant. Waterproof aprons are washed here and hung to dry. Space will also be required for the dirty linen trolley, a small instrument steriliser, and a shelf for specimens in jars awaiting removal to the laboratory: cleaning equipment for the post-mortem room and the body store should also be kept here.

(*l*) *Viewing room*

54. This is to enable bodies to be viewed by relatives and friends. It should be treated in a simple manner, so that it can be used by all religions and denominations. Exceptionally, an additional viewing room may be necessary for particular denominations but this is not within the scope of this Note.

55. A draped trolley is now regarded as more hygienic and practical for viewing purposes than a fixed bier. The room should be attractively decorated and subdued lighting is recommended.

(*m*) *Visitors' entrance*

56. A lobby is needed leading to the waiting-room. A lavatory with a basin and w.c. only is required for visitors. A drinking water point should be provided.

(*n*) *Visitors' waiting-room*

57. Visitors will wait here before going into the viewing room. Viewing times will generally be arranged so that unrelated parties do not overlap. It should be pleasantly furnished as a sitting space.

(*o*) *Isolation section*

(i) Body store

58. This should be separate from the main body store but planned with it. One three-tier unit will normally be satisfactory for the range of district general hospitals in the Appendix. There may, however, be hospitals which will contain a high proportion of infectious disease patients, where this number will need to be increased. This increase should be carried out by adjusting down the number of units of the main body store and reallocating the area accordingly. The area recommended in the Appendix for three units has been made up from a minimum requirement of 30 sq. ft. for the refrigerated chamber and 70 sq. ft. for a withdrawal and working space. If, for example, six units were needed for the isolation section, the refrigerated section could be doubled in size but 70 sq ft. would still be adequate for the withdrawal and working area.

(ii) Bier room

59. This room should be free of hangings and drapes and the finishes should be capable of being easily cleaned and disinfected. Relatives and visitors will not be allowed in this room: it may, therefore, be smaller than the main viewing room.

(iii) Viewing cubicle

60. This must be provided between the waiting-room and the bier room. It should be separated from the latter by a fixed glazed viewing window with a curtain on the viewing side.

(*p*) *Stores*

61. Three small stores will be required:

(i) Clean stock

62. This is for clean gowns, aprons, rubber gloves, gumboots, towels, etc. It should be adjacent to the pathologist's changing room, and outside the post-mortem room.

(ii) Instruments and equipment

63. This should open directly off the post-mortem room and hold the reserve stock instruments, unused specimen jars, chemical solutions, the electric reciprocating saw, the portable trolley-mounted spot light, etc. A glass-fronted instrument cupboard opening into the post-mortem room is desirable.

(iii) Linen

64. This is for clean shrouds, drapes, towels and other linen; also for toilet articles that may be required in the viewing room. It should be near the viewing room and body store.

(*q*) *Cleaners' room*

65. This is for the cleaning materials for all rooms except the post-mortem room and body store. A bucket sink with hot and cold water, drainer and space for mechanical cleaning equipment, cleaning utensils, etc., will be required.

(*r*) 66. *Circulation space*

B. Additional accommodation

(*a*) *Pathologist's office*

67. If the post-mortem room is some distance from the pathology department an office may be required where reports can be written or dictated by telephone or recorded on tape during the course of an autopsy. It may also be used for discussions with members of the clinical staff. About 100 sq. ft. will be needed.

(*b*) *Additional body storage*

68. Body storage may be needed in addition to that shown in the Appendix. It would be provided by additional cold chambers, each probably holding six bodies in two sets of three tiers as described in paragraph 34 together with associated working space. About 55 sq. ft. should be allowed for each additional set of three tiers. (This figure includes the withdrawal space in front of the chambers.)

(*c*) *Additional post-mortem tables*

69. In larger hospitals more tables may be needed in the post-mortem room. About 150 sq. ft. of space will be needed for each additional table.

(*d*) *Specimen room*

70. It may sometimes be convenient to keep organs and body tissues for further study in the mortuary temporarily rather than in the pathology department. Shelves of impervious material will be required for jars or containers of varying sizes, and floor space or skirting high benching for formalin tanks. The room must be well ventilated. About 30-50 sq. ft. will be needed.

(*e*) *Undertakers' vestibule*

71. The siting of the mortuary may sometimes require a lobby for use as an ante-room to prevent direct observation into the body store. This lobby might also conveniently provide working space for the undertakers' assistants and could contain a writing top and trestles or table. About 150 sq. ft. may be needed.

(*f*) *Relatives' viewing cubicle*

72. Relatives usually enter the viewing room, but it may be desirable to make provision for viewing from a small cubicle between the waiting-room and viewing room with a curtained observation window on the viewing room side. About 30-40 sq. ft. may be required.

(*g*) *Medical observation room*

73. It is generally considered that anyone present in the post-mortem room during an autopsy should wear a gown and gumboots particularly when potentially infective cases are being examined. To allow clinical staff to attend without changing, an observation room or gallery might be provided, separated from the post-mortem room by a full length glass viewing panel above worktop height. A dissecting bench suitably placed on the working side, and small speaking vents in the glass screen, would allow adequate observation and discussion. About 70-150 sq. ft. would be required.

V. Engineering services

74. Engineering services should be designed and installed in such a way as to ensure the minimum interruption of services and disturbance to the working of the mortuary while repairs and maintenance are being carried out.

75. Floor ducts and trenches should be avoided in areas, such as the post-mortem room and body stores, which are likely to be hosed down.

76. The provision of meters for departmental costing purposes should be considered where these can be installed conveniently and inexpensively.

Mechanical services

Heating and ventilation

77. Heating requirements can be met quite adequately by the conventional hot water radiator heating system. Radiators should be wall-mounted, with sufficient clearance underneath and behind them to facilitate regular floor and wall washing. Pipes should be concealed, with access for maintenance where necessary.

78. Space heating requirements should be calculated on the following recommended heating design temperatures and ventilation rates based on an outside air temperature of 30° F:

Accommodation	*Temperature*	*Air changes per hour*
Post-mortem room	60°F	5
Pathologist's office, attendant's room, waiting-room, ante-room, medical observation room	65°F	2
Staff changing rooms, lavatories, corridors, cleaners' rooms, undertakers' vestibule ...	60°F	2
Entrance spaces	60°F	3
Trolley bay, clean stock and linen stores	60°F	½
Body store, viewing room, bier room	55°F	2
Equipment stores	50°F	½

79. Natural ventilation by fly-screened windows and fresh air inlet grilles should be adequate except in the post-mortem room. Here a mechanical extract system is necessary; this should be arranged to

ventilate air from the area in which the post-mortem tables are located. The fan(s) should be of the variable speed type, designed to produce up to 10 air changes per hour. Care must be taken to ensure that the air discharged from the mortuary does not reach adjacent buildings. As a further safeguard, the rooms in the mortuary should not be in direct communication with a lift shaft or any service ducts which have openings on other floors. Portable deodorising equipment may be provided, if desired, in the post-mortem room.

80. The specimen room should be ventilated by mechanical extract from high and low level at a rate of 10 air changes per hour, fresh air being drawn from outside through permanently open grilles at high level.

81. Internal rooms and internal lavatories will be required to be mechanically ventilated.

Hot and cold water and drinking water services

82. Hot and cold water will be required to the sinks, wash basins and showers, and will normally be provided from the main services of the hospital. All taps in the working area should be elbow-operated. Post-mortem tables should be fitted with individual water hoses, these hoses being supplied with temperature controlled water from a thermostatically controlled mixing valve sited in the post-mortem room. Water suction pumps should not be used. Floor service ducts should be avoided.

83. One drinking water tap taken directly from the mains should be provided in each lavatory.

Gas

84. If easily available, gas could be used for a bunsen burner in the post-mortem room; alternatively a methylated spirit burner or an electric bunsen burner may be used.

Refrigerating plant and cold chambers

85. The refrigerating plant should be housed in a well-ventilated room suitable for one or more air-cooler compressor(s) mounted on a brick or concrete plinth to facilitate servicing. The room should be approximately 7 ft. long by 5 ft. wide; this will also allow for the accommodation of the electrical switchgear and distribution boards, etc. External access for servicing and maintenance is needed. The direct expansion cooling coils should be such that when the external air is 85°F and the initial temperature of the chamber, before loading, is 42°F, they are capable of reducing the temperature of the chambers and contents to 38°F in 10 hours from loading with bodies at a temperature of 98°F. Defrosting of the coils should be allowed for at the rate of once every 7 days unless automatic defrosting is incorporated in the system. Suitable drainage trays, connected to piped drains will be required and these pipes should be protected by electrical tracer heating where the temperatures are likely to fall below freezing. The refrigerant should be non-toxic e.g. Freon 12 or Arcton 6.

86. The construction and insulation of the cold chambers should ensure that the running time should not exceed 18 hours per day, with normal or average periods for doors opening. Door fastenings should be operable from both inside and outside the chambers. Where a circulating fan is employed, it should be stopped by a door switch when the door is opened. It is usual to provide a neon indicating lamp outside each chamber to indicate that the fan and compressor are working. Fittings in the chambers should be heavily galvanised; lighting fittings should also be water tight. Thermostatic control will be required for each chamber (probably six trays) and facilities should be provided to enable the chambers not in use to be switched off.

Instrument steriliser

87. An electrically-heated, boiling type steriliser should be provided.

Electrical installation

General

88. The electrical installation will consist of general and special lighting, socket outlets and the wiring and equipment required for the heating, ventilating, refrigerating and other installations.

Supply and distribution

89. Where it is not convenient to house the switchgear in the compressor room a switch compartment should be provided to supply the mortuary unless a conveniently situated distribution centre serving other departments is available. Distribution boards should be easily accessible. H.R.C. fuses are recommended and ample spare fuseways and fuses should be provided.

Wiring

90. Wiring enclosed in heavy-gauge screwed steel conduit concealed in the building fabric, or mineral insulated metal-clad cable, should be used; but where damp conditions are likely, there should be a mineral insulated copper-clad system. External conduit and fittings should be in weatherproof materials.

Lighting

91. Either tungsten or fluorescent lighting may be used. In the post-mortem room, special lighting should be provided to ensure adequate illumination of post-mortem tables and dissecting benches. Fluorescent lighting fittings have an advantage in that they can be arranged centrally, above and parallel to the axis of the table, but care must be taken in the choice of tubes to ensure that the lighting is satisfactory for colour identification. The lighting fittings should be designed to avoid glare, easy to clean and maintain and should as far as

possible be hose-proof. Switches in potentially wet areas, such as the post-mortem room and body store where walls and floors are hosed down, should be of the hose-proof type.

Special lighting

92. Lighting in the viewing room should receive special consideration. A subdued soft light is desirable for viewing, supplemented by separately switched normal lighting.

93. The following table gives recommended values of illumination (3 ft. above floor level) for the various rooms:

Accommodation	*Average lumens/sq ft.*
Post-mortem room	25
Post-mortem tables and benches ...	150
Pathologist's office, attendant's room ...	15
Body store, viewing room (normal) and cubicle, bier room (normal), anteroom, sluice room, undertakers' vestibule, medical observation room ...	10
Staff changing rooms, waiting-room, entrance spaces, trolley bay, compressor room, stores, corridors and lavatories, covered access, cleaners' room	7*

*Illumination at floor level—this figure may be increased where adjacent intensities are high.

Socket outlets

94. Sufficient 13 amp. universal switched shuttered socket outlets, on ring or spur circuits, should be provided to allow all portable appliances likely to be used at the same time to be connected to separate outlets. Hose-proof socket outlets mounted on the walls at a height of about 5 ft. 0 in. are desirable in damp areas such as the post-mortem room and body store.

95. The following socket outlet distribution is suggested:

Post-mortem room	2 hose-proof outlets convenient to each post-mortem table for use with electric saw and portable suction apparatus 1 hose-proof outlet for each x-ray viewing box 2 general purpose outlets (hose-proof)
Body store	1 hose-proof outlet at each end
Pathologist's office	1 twin outlet
Attendant's room	1 outlet
Instrument and equipment store	1 outlet for use with portable x-ray machine (to match sockets used elsewhere for this purpose)
Compressor room	1 outlet
Other rooms	As necessary, for the convenient use of domestic cleaning appliances having flexible leads assumed to be 30 ft. long

96. Fixed equipment requiring less than 13 amps. may be permanently wired from fused spur boxes. Equipment rated in excess of 13 amps. should be supplied from separate final sub-circuits and be independently switched. Socket outlets to be used for non-luminous heating appliances should be fitted with a neon type indicating light.

Telephones, etc.

97. Telephone facilities for both internal and external calls should be provided in the pathologist's office and attendant's room. In the post-mortem room a loud speaking telephone requiring no manual control is desirable; a special model for this purpose has proved satisfactory in trials carried out by the G.P.O. Commercial production of this model will soon commence.

98. Case reporting by dictation to a tape machine, placed outside the post-mortem room, may be required. The microphone may be suspended above the table provided this can be done within the length of cable supplied with the equipment (up to 45 ft.). The machine may be operated by a foot switch which, if electrically operated, must be protected against dampness, e.g. by a plastic enclosure and by being raised clear of the floor.

Electric clocks

99. Electric clocks, either independent or on the hospital master system, will be required in the post-mortem room and the body store.

Fire alarms and fire-fighting equipment

100. Information on fire alarms and extinguishers is given in B.S. Codes of Practice and in H.M.(56)36 on hospital fire precautions. Advice on the fire-fighting installation proposed should be sought from the local fire authority.

APPENDIX

Recommended minimum areas for rooms in basic accommodation

	300 beds	400 beds	500 beds	600 beds	700 beds	800 beds
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
(*a*) Covered access	170	170	170	170	170	170
(*b*) Body store*	230 (12 places)	340 (18 places)	400 (21 places)	450 (24 places)	570 (30 places)	620 (33 places)
(*c*) Trolley bay	60	60	60	60	60	60
(*d*) Compressor and switch room	35	35	35	35	35	35
(*e*) Pathologist's changing room	80	80	80	80	160	160
(*f*) Ante-room	30	30	30	30	30	30
(*g*) Pathologist's lavatory	50	50	50	50	100	100
(*h*) Attendant's room	80	80	80	80	80	80
(*i*) Attendant's changing room and lavatory	50	50	50	50	50	50
(*j*) Post-mortem room	420 (1 table)	420 (2 tables)	420 (2 tables)	420 (2 tables)	570 (3 tables)	570 (3 tables)
(*k*) Sluice room	50	50	50	50	50	50
(*l*) Viewing room	180	180	180	180	180	180
(*m*) Visitors' entrance	40	40	40	40	40	40
(*n*) Visitors' waiting room	120	120	120	150	150	150
(*o*) Isolation section						
(i) Body store	100	100	100	100	100	100
(ii) Bier room	60	60	60	60	60	60
(iii) Viewing cubicle	40	40	40	40	40	40
(*p*) Stores						
(i) Clean stock	20	20	20	20	20	20
(ii) Instruments, equipment	30	30	30	30	30	30
(iii) Linen	20	20	20	20	20	20
(*q*) Cleaners' room	50	50	50	50	50	50

*It has been assumed that four mortuary places are needed for every hundred beds. But since body storage is normally designed in three-tier units, the number of places has been rounded to multiples of three.

Hospital Building Note No. 2

Appendix E.

(1966)

Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room

Hospital Building Note No. 20

The scales of accommodation and cost recommendations are applicable to mortuaries for district general hospitals with between 300 and 800 beds. Requirements for teaching hospitals will be dealt with separately.

A. Basic accommodation

(*a*) *Covered access*

(*b*) *Body store*

(*c*) *Trolley bay*

(*d*) *Compressor and switch room*

(*e*) *Pathologist's changing room*

(*f*) *Ante-room*

(*g*) *Pathologist's lavatory*

(*h*) *Attendant's room*

(*i*) *Attendant's changing room and lavatory*

(*j*) *Post-mortem room*

(*k*) *Sluice room*

(*l*) *Viewing room*

(*m*) *Visitors' entrance*

(*n*) *Visitors' waiting-room*

(*o*) *Isolation section*

- (i) Body store
- (ii) Bier room
- (iii) Viewing cubicle

(*p*) *Stores*

- (i) Clean stock
- (ii) Instruments and equipment
- (iii) Linen

(*q*) *Cleaners' room*

(*r*) *Circulation space necessary for the above accommodation.*

B. Additional accommodation

(*a*) Pathologist's office

(*b*) Additional body storage

(*c*) Additional post-mortem tables

(*d*) Specimen room

(*e*) Undertakers' vestibule

(*f*) Relatives' viewing cubicle

(*g*) Medical observation room

Circulation space

For the purpose of the provisional cost limit the area occupied by internal circulation space and internal walls and partitions represents, on average, an addition of 20 per cent to the net floor area of the basic and additional accommodation.

DEPARTMENTAL COST ALLOWANCES

1. Basic accommodation

Functional unit—the capacity of the body store calculated from the number of beds, excluding any provision in the isolation section.

For the first 12 places — Allow £17,400

For every additional three places — Allow £1,100

2. Additional accommodation

Cost of additional accommodation—Allow £4 13s. 0d. per square foot; except for the following:

Additional post-mortem tables and specimen room —Allow £8 4s. 0d. per square foot.

Additional body storage—Allow £15 5s. 0d. per square foot.

Note: Engineering

The following engineering services are included in items 1 and 2 above and account for approximately 34-36 per cent of the total cost:

Space heating and simple mechanical ventilation to post-mortem room

Hot, cold and drinking water

Fire fighting and gas services

Lighting, including fittings, power, telephones, staff location, clocks, fire alarms, wiring for mechanical services, permanent wiring only between microphone above post-mortem table and tape recording apparatus

Equipment including electrically heated instrument steriliser, body cooling plant incorporating body storage chambers in the main and isolation body stores.

Ministry of Health :

The following titles in this series have been issued:

Hospital Building Notes

1. Buildings for the hospital service	Out of print		
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3. The district general hospital	Out of print		
4. Ward units	Revision in preparation		
5. Short stay psychiatric unit	Out of print		
6. Diagnostic X-ray department	Revision in preparation		
7. Accommodation for nursing staff	Out of print		
8. Physiotherapy department	Out of print		
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